Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office Of The Governor

WHEREAS, Arson is a serious crime that affects each and every person and can only be stopped when citizens realize the severe damage that arson causes; and,

WHEREAS, Cities, communities and neighborhoods are blighted by arson which results in erosion of the tax base and loss of employment; and,

WHEREAS, Arson is frequently used as an act of terrorism; and,

WHEREAS, Arson has disrupted our educational and manufacturing systems with the destruction of irreplaceable buildings and artifacts; and,

WHEREAS, Natural resources are rendered useless for long periods of time or are completely destroyed; and,

WHEREAS, Countless human injuries and deaths result in the needless tragedies caused by acts of arson; and,

WHEREAS, A large percentage of property insurance premiums are used to cover the losses from arson, and tax dollars must be used to pay for fire extinguishment and the investigation of these malicious acts, which is a senseless waste of our precious resources when the majority of the public must directly bear the burden for an individual's criminal action; and,

WHEREAS, In many communities, arson awareness programs and rewards have proven to be effective as a detriment to this problem:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE S. MICKELSON, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 6 through 12, 1990, as

ARSON AWARENESS WEEK

in South Dakota, and call upon the citizens of all communities in the state to work to reduce the needless waste caused by setting fires, and I urge each county and city to join with civic groups, fire service organizations and schools to actively engage in arson awareness programs, and to carry on these programs throughout the year to preserve life and property.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Eighteenth Day of April, in the Year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Ninety

GEORGE S. MICKELSON, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

JOYCE HAZELTINE, SECRETARY OF STATE